The invention claimed is:

1. A method of constructing a monolithic blade-screw, comprising:

providing a connecting element including a screw coupled to a cage, the cage adapted to receive a spinal fusion rod therein, and having a reduction portion connected thereto at a frangible portion, the reduction portion having a first set of threads adapted to engage a set screw;

permanently affixing a distal end of a blade extension to a proximal end of the reduction portion.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising integrally forming the cage and the reduction portion from a single piece of material.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of permanently affixing the distal end of the blade extension to the proximal end of the reduction portion includes welding the distal end of the blade extension to the proximal end of the reduction portion.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the cage includes a second set of threads therealong in alignment with the first set of threads of the reduction portion, and wherein the blade extension is not threaded.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the threads of the first and second sets of threads have a generally horizontal flank facing towards the screw.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the shape of a component forming the blade extension.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the modifying step occurs before the affixing step.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the modifying step occurs after the affixing step.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the modifying step is performed by wire-cut electrical discharge machining.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the screw is polyaxially coupled to the cage.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling the screw to the cage before the step of providing the connecting element.

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